



BENNETT - Tryk: Trykcenter Lda



GUTULIA

SUMMER DAIRY FARMS AND TALL VIRGIN FOREST

TE113

Photo: Ragnar Ødegaard, Terjevan Moen/Kosik, Bildebyrå, Lars H. Krampe, Femund Naturfor, Sambo, Arvid Juul and Dag Håre/eng/W/Sambo. Front page: Gutulista summer dairy farm

Norway's national parks – nature as it was meant to be

Norway's national parks are regulated by the laws of nature. Nature decides both how and when to do things. National parks are established in order to protect large natural areas – from the coast to the mountains. This is done for the benefit of nature itself, for our sake and for generations to come.

The national parks offer a wide range of opportunities and experiences. The natural surroundings are beautiful and varied. There is hunting, fishing, plants, birds, animals and cultural monuments.

Accept our invitation – become acquainted with nature and our national parks.



Directorate for
Nature Management

www.dirnat.no

A SMALL NATIONAL PARK WITH LARGE TREES

Gutulia National Park, in the county of Hedmark, borders up to Sweden. There used to be endless forests in this district. The park was established in 1968 to protect one of the last remnants of virgin forest in Norway and a landscape of hills and bogs that is typical of these parts.

The trees are unusually large, and many are centuries old. Scots pine predominates, but there are also some dense clusters of Norway spruce.

In 2004, the national park was extended to include a wetland and more of the lush forest Gutulia is known for. Still, it comprises just a mere 23 km².

A large, moss-covered tree trunk in a primeval forest. The trunk is thick and gnarled, with a dense covering of green moss and lichen. The background shows a lush forest with tall trees and a dense canopy.

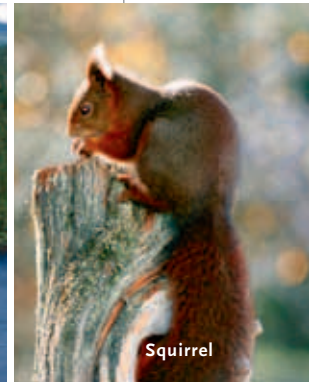
Primeval forest

A view from Gutulisetra showing a large rock in the foreground and a vast landscape of hills and bogs in the background. A person in a red and black plaid shirt and a hat is standing next to the rock, providing a sense of scale. The landscape is a mix of green hills and brown bogs, with a forested valley in the distance under a blue sky.

View from Gutulisetra



The Gutuli Lake



Squirrel



EXPERIENCE NATURE

Opportunities to experience undisturbed wilderness

The virgin forest is the main reason Gutulia deserves protection. Virgin-like woodland and forest has become a rare habitat in Norway and can provide magnificent experiences of wilderness.

Few facilities for outdoor recreation have been provided in the national park; there are no marked paths, for instance. However, outside the park, a marked path from the parking site leads you along the west bank of Gutulisjøen to Gutulisetra (ca 3 km).

Take your fishing rod with you; you may catch trout, powan, grayling, perch and pike. If you enjoy picking berries, you can find bilberries, cowberries and cloudberries.



THE LANDSCAPE

Woodland, hills and bogs

Gutulia is a comparatively high, wooded area. The entire national park is located between 615 and 949 m a.s.l. The highest point is a rounded ridge named Gutulivola. Its crest lacks trees, but its slopes are clad in open pine-wood. Many dense spruce groves occur on the southern

and eastern slopes of the ridge and the slope rising from the southern part of the lake. These are the distinctive features of Gutulia, along with dead and fallen trees that are scattered everywhere.

The next highest point in the park is Baklivola, furthest north. A broad valley separates Gutulivola and Baklivola, and leads down to a lake, Valsjøen. The main river is the Gutua which, along with a larger lake, Gutulisjøen, forms the western and southern borders of the national park. All the rivers in the park flow eastwards or south-eastwards towards Sweden.

Moraines and an ice-age landscape

Homogeneous, recrystallised feldspathic sandstone is the predominant bedrock in the national park. This sandstone, deposited some 600 million years ago, produces soil with few nutrients. However, carbonate-bearing rocks underlie the metamorphosed sandstone, and the plant life is richer where they occur at the surface.

During the last Ice Age, the area was covered by a vast ice cap that moved very little. Consequently, the superficial material in Gutulia was deposited as ground moraine. Another kind of moraine, Rogen moraine, occurs near Valsjøen, and it produces a characteristic landscape with long ridges alternating with depressions.



The Val Lake



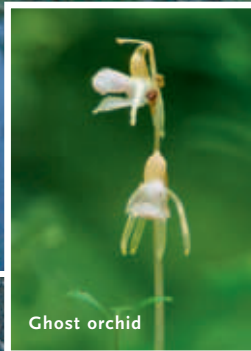
PLANT LIFE

Pine, birch and spruce

After the Ice Age, birch and Scots pine were the first trees to grow at Gutulia. Pine survives on drier places than birch and has therefore become established on barren ridges, rocky knolls and in gravelly areas. Because of the harsh climate, the pines grow slowly. Some pines in the park are more than 400 years old. Birch trees disperse over damper ground and at higher altitudes, because they withstand lower temperatures.

Norway spruce reached Gutulia thousands of years later than birch and pine. Because it is more competitive, it gradually took over areas with more nutrients and a regular supply of moisture. Some spruce trees, such as the Giant Spruce ("Storgrana"), 500 m north of the summer dairy farms at Gutulisetra, are 300 years old.

Numerous dead trees typify natural woodland. About 10 per cent of the standing trees in Gutulia are dead. This applies particularly to Scots pines, which can remain standing for several decades, perhaps a century, after they die.



Ghost orchid

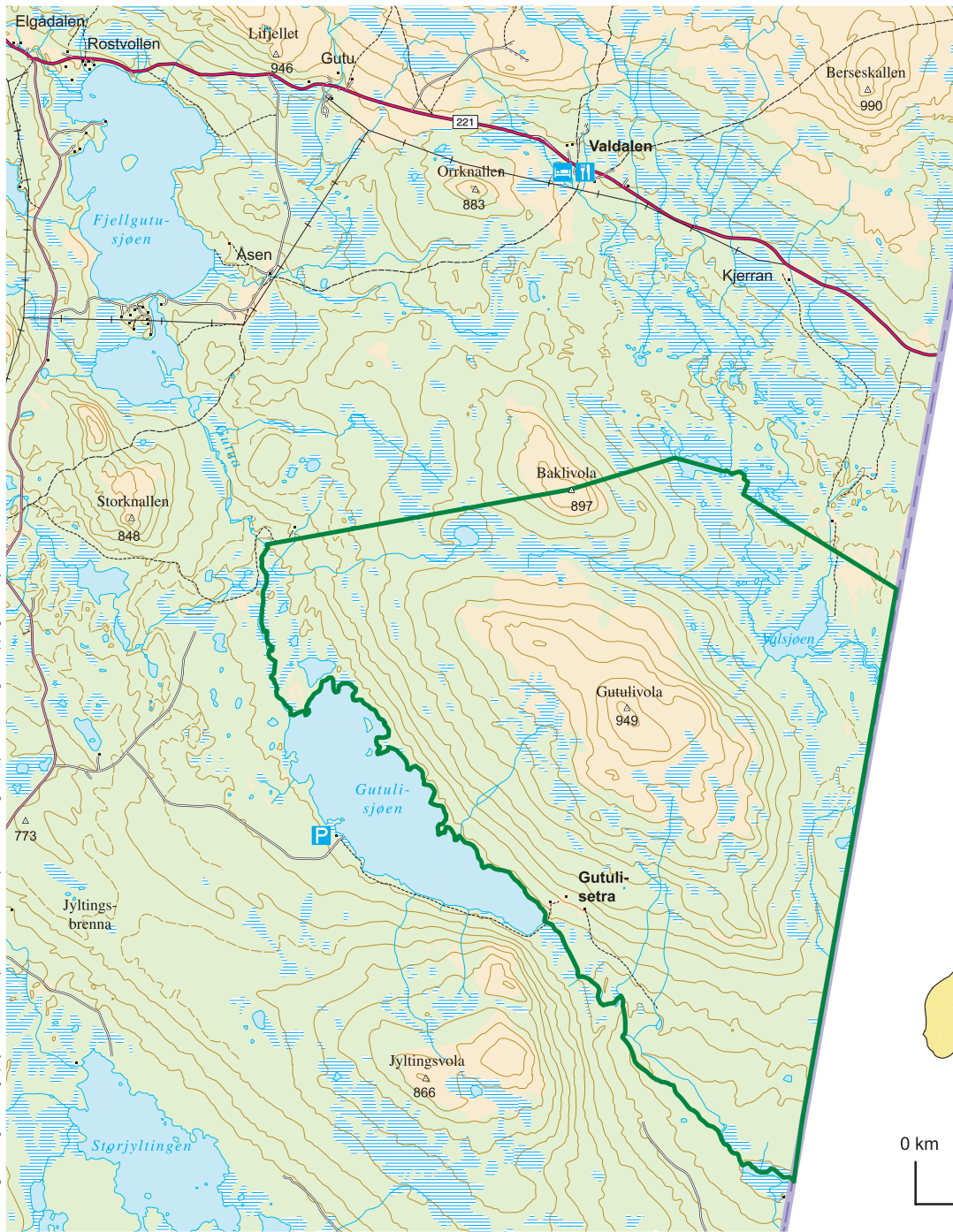
Poor soil supports few species

Only 230 species of vascular plants have been recorded in the national park, relatively few by Norwegian standards. Nevertheless, there are more species and a greater variation in types of vegetation than in corresponding areas elsewhere in the Femund district.






River banks and springs in spruce woodland are the richest areas. Tall-herb vegetation can be found there that includes alpine species like Scottish asphodel, alpine meadow-rue, alpine bartsia and twin-flowered violet. Some typical easterly species, like ghost orchid, sceptred lousewort, *Juncus stygius* (a rush) and *Carex globularis* (a sedge), also occur. Species typical of former pastures, such as common bent, sweet vernal-grass and heath woodrush, are seen around Gutulisetra.

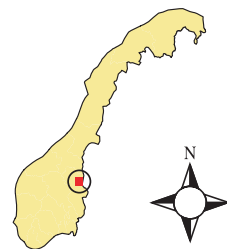


Windfall



KEY TO SYMBOLS

-  National border
-  National park
-  Parking
-  Accommodation
-  Restaurant/cafeteria



BIRDLIFE

Typical upland woodland species

Approximately 75 species of birds have been observed in and around the national park. Species that typify upland woodlands, like brambling, tree pipit and willow warbler, make up about half the small bird population. Redstarts, redwings, song thrushes and dunnocks favour the pinewood. Reed buntings live in moist places, such as near Gutulisetra. Valsjøen and several smaller tarns and wet bogs east of Gutulisetra form habitats for ducks and for waders like greenshanks and wood sandpipers. The goldeneye is the most common duck.

Sparrow hawks, merlins, golden eagles and ospreys are regularly observed in the park. Meadow pipits, wheatears and golden plovers are the commonest birds on Gutulivola.



Boreal owl



Roe deer



Fox

ANIMAL LIFE

Animal life in eastern Norway

The animal life in Gutulia is not particularly varied, but is nevertheless richer than in Femundsmarka. The last wild reindeer were killed around 1880, but semi-domesticated reindeer graze in the park. Elk, roe deer, foxes, pine martens and mink can be seen. Beavers vanished for a long period, but have been living here since the mid-1960s. Otters can also be observed. All the four large predators – brown bear, wolf, wolverine and lynx – may roam through the park.

Life in lakes and rivers

Trout occur in the national park itself, and typical easterly species, like powan, grayling, perch, pike and burbot, are found in neighbouring rivers, having migrated from Sweden.



Summer dairy farm

HISTORY

Few signs of felling

For a long time, the area east of Femund was only used for hunting and fishing. The Sami have grazed reindeer here since the 1600s. With few exceptions, the forest in Gutulia has been able to develop freely. Fires have been a natural part of its dynamism for several centuries. Stumps and other relics left by fires can still be seen. The fires have influenced the distribution of tree species in the area.

Summer dairy farming

Three farms used Gutulisetra for summer dairy farming from 1750 to 1949, but this did not significantly affect the original character of the vegetation. There are now 13 restored dairy farm buildings in the national park. The building where cheese was made ("Ostehuset") at Oppåvollen is open to visitors.

NATURE MONITORING

Nature is being looked after

The Programme of Terrestrial Monitoring is monitoring the natural history in Gutulia. This project, active since 1990, aims to monitor the supply and effects of far-transported pollution on different kinds of habitats and organisms. Willow grouse, small rodents and passerine birds are investigated annually in Gutulia.

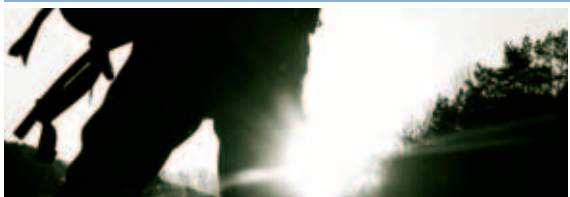


Black grouse



You are a guest of nature in a national park

- You may go wherever you like, on foot or ski, but the basic rule is that anything with an engine is prohibited.
- You can stop wherever you like and pitch a tent. Always tidy up after yourself and don't leave litter.
- You can light a fire, but remember the general ban on lighting fires in forests from 15 April to 15 September. Be considerate when collecting firewood.
- You can pick berries, mushrooms and common plants for your own use. Be considerate of cultural relics, vegetation and fauna. Be extra careful during the breeding and nesting season.
- Make use of the hunting and fishing opportunities. Remember a hunting/fishing licence. Never use live fish as bait, or transfer live fish from one watercourse to another.
- You can take your dog with you, but remember to keep it on a lead from 1 March to 20 August.



Gutulia National Park in brief

Where:

Engerdal municipality in Hedmark county.

Foremost characteristics:

Virgin forest of Norway spruce and ancient Scots pine

Outdoor recreation:

Experience virgin forest and undisturbed wilderness.

Fish and pick berries.

How to get to Gutulia National Park:

Route 217 and 26 to Femundsenden, then route 654 and a forestry road to the parking site beside Gutulisjøen. A path takes you on to Gutulisetra (ca. 3 km/45 min.). It follows the lake eastwards and crosses a bridge at the end of the lake. Alternatively, route 221 in the direction of the Swedish border, and then paths southwards towards the national park.

Information on accommodation and other services:

Engerdal Tourist Office, tel. +47 62 45 66 70, ww.engerdal.info

Tips:

There are no marked paths in the national park, but it is easy to find your way to the Giant Pine ("Storfurua") about 1 km south of Gutulisetra, and the Giant Spruce ("Storgrana"), about 500 metres north of Gutulisetra.

Maps:

1:50 000: Elgå 1719 II, Engerdal 2018 I and Grøthogna 1819 III; 1:100 000: Søndre Femund

Established:

1968, extended 2004

Area:

23 km²

Administration and supervision:

County Governor of Hedmark, tel. +47 62 55 11 80,
www.fylkesmannen.no/hedmark

Engerdal Municipal Common Land Board, tel. +47 62 45 91 77
www.fjellstyrene.no/engerdal/

Norwegian Nature Inspectorate, Drevsjø, tel. +47 62 45 88 96

More information:

www.norgesnasjonalparker.no